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in ancient Oaxaca at a time anterior to the coming of the Spaniards. As we know so little of the ethnology of this state, one of the most interesting for the archeologist and ethnologist in all Mexico, it is not at all unlikely that this bow may still be used in the Misteca, where, up to the present time, no ethnological research has been made.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Art of Graphology, or "The Discovery of an Improved System of Graphological Analysis with Cipher Cards." By Prof. J. W. Small, F. C. S., F. G. S., F. A. I., G. B. I., M. R. A. S. S. (C. B.), Principal Victoria College, Ceylon. Madras, 1898.

The author of this curious contribution to pseudo-science defines graphology as "the study of handwriting as an index to the character of an individual." Many pages are taken up with the laudation of the accuracy of his system, which is nowhere clearly explained. Instead, we have the glittering generalities to which we are accustomed in works of this kind. We give some examples:

"No man can judge of another's writing unless he has certain graphological instincts to determine it."

"Was an open, 'gushing' nature ever known to close the loops of o's and a's? Was a self-contained person ever known to keep the loops open? Why do energetic men write peculiarly and the weak and desponding differently? Why does the critic divide his letters and the man of connected ideas keep them together? Why do the romantic and sentimental write sloping hands with long-tailed letters, and the selfish close their loops of letters?"

To these the author vouchsafes no answer.

After wandering in vain through many pages of this sort of matter in hope of finding some coherent and intelligible statement of the "system," we are finally informed in chapter vi that "my graphological analysis or key-book to character is contained in the form of *cipher cards*, which, if in your possession, with a key, may enable you to read the character of any individual, known or unknown, from his handwriting."

This is a severe disappointment. We had thought that at last

we were going to taste the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Where, oh, where are those delectable cipher cards that are to unlock all the secrets of character?

We congratulate Victoria College on its extraordinary principal.

NOTES AND NEWS

RICE AS A CURRENCY.—Yule notes in his *Embassy to Ava* (p. 259) that "rice is often used in petty transactions among villagers." It is still used in some parts of Upper Burma, but the rice so used is not food rice, nor seed rice, but useless, broken rice. It is in fact a conventional currency, like the imitation hoes, hatchets, knives, etc., of the Chinese and other races in the world. As this use of the rice in Burma throws an important light on the subject before us, I may as well describe it in greater detail. Rice has been so used elsewhere in the East, as the following facts will show. Mr E. H. Parker informs me that in *Annals of the T'ang Dynasty of China*, a book a thousand years old, it is stated that the Shans of old paid a tax of two measures of rice a year for each man who worked a plow, and it took three men to keep a plow going—one to drive, one to lead, and one to poke up the ox! As I have observed already, taxes are pretty sure guide to barter values. Rice, again, formed an important part of the fines inflicted on the Lushais in the expedition of 1871-'72, as Woodthorpe informs us in his *Lushai Expedition* (p. 223 and elsewhere). Friar Odoric, in the early XIVth century, in describing a rich man of Manzi, in China, says: "Now this man hath a revenue of xxx *tuman* of *tagars* (Turki and Persian, *taghâr* = sack) of rice. And each *tuman* is ten thousand and each *tagar* is the amount of a heavy ass-load." In this text Yule, *Cathay and the Way Thither* (p. 153), remarks: "Revenues continued to be estimated in China in sacks of rice until lately, if they are not so still (1866). In Burma they are always estimated in baskets of rice." In the XVIth century we find in the *Ain Akbari* (Gladwin's ed., vol. II, p. 156) that in Kashmîr "every coin and even manufactures are estimated in *kharwars* of rice." Even in the remote, but by no means uncivilized, Maldives, Pyrard de Laval found, in the early XVIIth century (Hak. Soc. ed., vol. II, p. 473),